

Senior Capstone Annotated Bibliography

“Building Bridges Through Illustrated Stories”

Fatima Abashera

[Link to Annotated Bibliography \(Etended Version\)](#)

1. **Boustan, Ran Abramitzky and Leah. “Why the Children of Immigrants Get Ahead.” *Time*, Time, 1 June 2022, time.com/6182715/immigrants-children-us-mobility/.**

The American Dream is a sentiment that propels many immigrants to America and the possibility of being able to offer a better future for their children is something that causes immigration at great lengths. This article describes why the success rate among immigrant children (first generation) is so incredibly high in comparison to other demographics. One of the reasons was the motivation that pushed immigrant children to want to change their situation and climb up the economic ladder. In my personal experience, I think that immigrant children are constantly reminded of the sacrifices that were made for them to attend school and have these various opportunities. However, it is the ability to take hardship and challenges and turn them into positivity and success that is the most remarkable. I believed that this was a credible source because it encompassed a lot of the facts and information backed up by interviews and primary sources such as firsthand accounts. I think that by including interviews, there was a filter taken off because it made the source more raw and authentic. With this authenticity, I hope to apply it to my childrens’ book while also preserving the child- like innocent, , educational nature of childrens’ literature.

2. **“Through the Eyes of a Child Immigrant | Erik Gomez | Tedxpsu.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 4 Apr. 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=46wWjKTn4Ac.**

This TED talk was done by Erik a Mexican immigrant who crossed the border with his family at 5 years old. Through his story, he highlights the contentious debate surrounding immigration through a different lens. Having this experience, ultimately led to Erik wanting to help people who immigrate and eventually become undocumented. This experience is very important to understand. For my capstone, although the main character does not experience immigration directly, I want to integrate the aspect of inspiration into my story. Erik does an excellent job describing the experiences of being undocumented and having to adjust to a brand-new lifestyle. This aspect could be used for the main character's grandma who actually experienced immigration. This helped me develop a lot of my understanding for the plot I want to include in my book. I think that this source did not have a bias approach to the writing of it. Rather, I think it did a good job of providing multiple perspectives and which helped enhance and improve the readability of the article.

3. _ Flannery, Mary Ellen. "Why We Need Diverse Books." *NEA*, www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/why-we-need-diverse-books. Accessed 23 Jan. 2024.

This article describes in details the evolution of children's literature and how diversity can be seen across the board with cultural identity and how this demonstrates why it is important for children to be aware and informed about cultural diversity. This source is something I intend to use to center the purpose of my childrens' book around. Furthermore, I think that to center my book around the celebration of diversity and culture is something that will make it stronger and more sensitive for children. This article further explored the need for diversity especially in literature. I think that writing my book with the hopes of doing something for the younger generations as well as for my younger self is a huge determining factor of the success of my children's book. Furthermore, I think that literature is a significant form of education and knowledge so with this source outlining aspects that make literature diverse and celebratory it will help make my book a lot more enhanced.

4. **“Removing the Roadblocks That First-Generation Americans Face at Work.” *Harvard Business Review*, 5 July 2023,**
hbr.org/2023/07/removing-the-roadblocks-that-first-generation-americans-face-at-work.

This article talks about the cultural “seesaw” effect first-generation Americans face when navigating the American culture and work industry. They use the example of Asian American individuals who feel like it is challenging to self-promote or self-motivate as it goes against their values and culture. Self-promotion and voicing one’s opinions are important in becoming a successful asset to the Western culture and workplace. First-generation Americans often feel very isolated and marginalized which could create mental health disparities that can result in hesitation when advocating for oneself. Marginalized communities and individuals can “endure numerous generational, societal, and workplace traumas that create mental health disparities”. Although mental health effects are not something that I will be exploring in my children’s book, I think that having a moment where the main character feels isolated or misunderstood can be effective in painting a similar picture as what was depicted in this article. “The goal is not to suppress our identities. In contrast, it was to engage in a new environment with foreigners in a non-burdensome way.” Here, the idea of the “cultural seesaw” is very explicit. This idea depicts the back-and-forth movement suggesting that there are shifts or fluctuations in cultural dynamics. It describes where individuals have to navigate different cultural contexts and balance cultural diversity. I think this term is very relevant to the idea that I want to express in my book.

**5. “How to Write a Children’s Book - 2024.” *MasterClass*,
www.masterclass.com/articles/how-to-write-a-childrens-book. Accessed 23 Jan. 2024.**

This article guides writing a children’s book and could be valuable to my capstone project. Crafting literature for young children can be very difficult and requires a unique set of skills to effectively communicate complex themes. This article essentially offered insight into age-appropriate language, storytelling techniques, and the importance of visual elements. Understanding that developmental stages are important is integral to making a book that will resonate with children. My senior capstone project will benefit from a well-informed approach that ensures the creation of a compelling and impactful children’s book on immigration. “A primary focus of these grades is teaching independent reading, and so these books are designed to be read without adult assistance”. Here, there is an emphasis on how digestible and easy to understand a children’s book should be for a kid to understand and read on their own. One of the strategies I want to implement is “You must think like a kid”. I think that putting myself in the position of the child reading this book can allow for the book to be centered around a child’s perspective making it more real and digestible. This article demonstrates the many important elements and considerations when it comes to writing and publishing a children’s book.

**6. *Dreamers by Yuyi Morales - Habla Teacher Institutes*,
www.hablateacherinstitute.org/documentation/chicago2019/files/2019/09/Dreamers-by-Yuyi-Morales.pdf. Accessed 23 Jan. 2024.**

“Dreamers” by Yuyi Morales is a children’s book (non fiction) about gifts that migrants bring when relocating. The main idea is essentially creating a home in a new place and making your home what you want it to be. Furthermore, the children’s book explores topics of identity through the lens of metaphors and characterization which is something that I would like to implement in my own children’s book.

Throughout my reading of this book, it felt very understandable and it did a good job dissecting complex

topics and emotions into little understandable fragments. This book was very informative and entertaining and I think it was nostalgic of childhood and child like topics.

7. Shoichet, Catherine E. “These Authors Don’t like the Immigration Stories They’re Hearing from Washington. so They’re Writing Their Own.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 21 Dec. 2019, www.cnn.com/2019/12/21/us/immigration-childrens-books/index.html.

This article demonstrates the importance of writing impactful and inspiring stories for young children. Being a child means being very impressionable and not having context for a lot of the things that happen like immigration. Young children may not understand the full extent and understanding of what immigration is. So, in giving children a resource like “Dreamers” by Yuyi Morales and hopefully my capstone project, they can explore these topics at an introductory level with elements that make it entertaining and pleasurable to them.

8. “Teaching about Immigration.” *Social Justice Books*, 30 Dec. 2023, socialjusticebooks.org/booklists/immigration/.

This source lists many different examples of children literature and books about immigration. These books demonstrate what I intend to do in my own capstone project. A notable similarity among these books is that they all have a plot that enhances the theme of immigration rather than drown it out. By using metaphors and symbolism, it makes the idea of immigration more digestible and understandable for a child. I intend to refer back to this source throughout my research process to read and view examples of children’s books. I want to read through as many children book examples as possible to understand how my book can be created in the most efficient and understandable way.

9. Wilson, Victoria. “What Is Cultural Identity and Why Is It Important?” *Exceptional Futures*, 14 Dec. 2023, www.exceptionalfutures.com/cultural-identity/.

This journal explored the idea of cultural identity and how it can specifically be important to a child’s development and as well as an adult. The article emphasized the idea that cultural identity is a center piece to personal identity and having a strong sense and awareness of this can allow every other aspect of identity to fall into place. Furthermore, I think that the article lists a lot of aspects that make someone culturally aware. I intend to explore these aspects more closely before creating my childrens’ book because it will help me be more understanding of my own culture and how to convey that through literature.

10. “It Wasn’t Easy Growing up as an Immigrant.” *YouTube*, YouTube, 4 July 2019, www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlxSJW_Q2mQ.

This Story Booth YouTube video illustrates the story of a girl named Corrie who was born in the Philippines and lived there with her parents. Corrie’s parents always dreamed of moving to America and wanting a better life for opportunities and lifestyles for their family. The immigration process ends up being very difficult for them and it takes years for them to get approval to come to America. Upon arrival, Corrie faces many challenges like not being able to speak English as well as everyone in her class and having a hard time making friends. She felt like she was always being reminded about what made her different and at lunch her peers would make fun of the food her dad made for her. However, when in public some people were amazed by her ability to translate for her parents and help them communicate. Although very difficult,

Corrie learns that if it weren't for being an immigrant she would not be able to know the sacrifices that were made for her to succeed and have the opportunity to strive in America.